



Memorandum

Date: April 30, 1996

To: Category III Steering Committee

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Subject: CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Coordination Proposal

Activities surrounding the implementation of the Bay-Delta Accord and development of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program have highlighted the need for comprehensive coordination of a total ecosystem restoration strategy implementing various state, federal and private efforts. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is developing the long-term ecosystem strategy. However, there remains an immediate need to coordinate existing habitat restoration programs and projects, improve efficiency and better prepare for the eventual implementation of the more comprehensive strategy CALFED desires.

The Category III program is a component of overall ecosystem restoration. Consequently, Category III non-flow efforts should be pursued in collaboration with other ecosystem activities. This proposal offers a CALFED structure which will initiate effective coordination of state and federal ecosystem restoration activities and provide for integration of the Category III effort.

The following description is divided into three parts: an annotated organizational chart summarizing the structure, a brief description of roles and responsibilities, and a summary of key issues related to the structure.

Functional Roles

Ecosystem Roundtable

The Ecosystem Roundtable will be composed of constituency stakeholders. The Roundtable will have an advisory relationship to CALFED. It will be established as a

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

subcommittee of BDAC but could transition into a separate FACA-chartered committee. It will review recommendations for ecosystem-wide goals and objectives. It will review recommendations for annual restoration priorities. The Roundtable could also provide the stakeholder forum for determining Category III funding. Contracting and administrative functions of Category III could be handled independently. The Roundtable may also undertake the role of stakeholder input to the CVPIA restoration fund if that is acceptable to the CVPIA stakeholders (the Department of Interior and the current Restoration Roundtable). It would not take on all the functions currently provided by the Restoration Roundtable (i.e., refuge water supply issues).

Restoration Coordinator

The Restoration Coordinator will be responsible for facilitating coordination of state, federal, and other restoration activities. The position will initially reside within the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and then likely transition to an independent long-term CALFED function. All work done by the Coordinator will be fully integrated with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Coordinator will be responsible for convening program work groups and working with them to refine the goals, objectives and core actions developed by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program into more quantitative standards and determining the most practical, effective and efficient means to achieve them. The Coordinator will also work with CALFED agencies to coordinate ecosystem restoration efforts within those agencies and will also prepare an annual work program developed in collaboration with the work groups for consideration by the Ecosystem Roundtable and CALFED. The Coordinator will compile an inventory of participants' program plans, and will facilitate implementation of components of the annual work program by circulating to the current funding sources at the correct point in their funding cycle.

Work Groups

Work groups are proposed for Habitat Restoration and Monitoring. They will be composed of qualified technical experts from the CALFED agencies, the stakeholder community and the public, and will initially form from existing functional work groups. They will work with the Coordination Manager to develop the work products outlined above to be transmitted to the Ecosystem Roundtable and the CALFED Management Group. In developing work products related to guidance on expenditures of Category III funds, they will use the process outlined in the December document prepared for Category III.

Key Issues

1. The structure provides better coordination of state and federal ecosystem restoration activities, an improved structure for evaluation and refinement of ecosystem restoration strategies, a periodic assessment of the state of the ecosystem and a mechanism for facilitating implementation of the long-term ecosystem plan with maximum efficiency.
2. The structure could provide the coordination and project funding decision functions for Category III, currently performed by the Category III Steering Committee and proposed to be performed by a Category III Board of Directors. It is not designed to handle the administrative tasks for Category III.
3. This coordinated CALFED effort will provide incentive for continued Category III contributions by providing direct crediting against future CALFED financial obligations.
4. This structure will initially be formed as a unit within the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, but may transition to a permanent direct CALFED activity as refinements are made and the long-term ecosystem strategy finalizes.
5. Stakeholder involvement is to be formally integrated through development of the Ecosystem Roundtable. The Roundtable will be utilized to discuss technical and policy direction for the ecosystem restoration strategy and to provide input into CALFED with respect to development of project and program priorities for implementation. The composition will provide a balance such that final actions represent a true collaboration between state and federal agencies and stakeholders and interest groups.
6. Technical work groups will be utilized to develop specific components and information related to existing programs (e.g., restoration roundtable, four pumps programs, etc.), monitoring strategies (e.g., IEP), and specific functional restoration issues (e.g., spring-run recovery or Butte Creek River Basin strategy). These technical work groups will be formed as necessary and include agency, stakeholder and public membership.

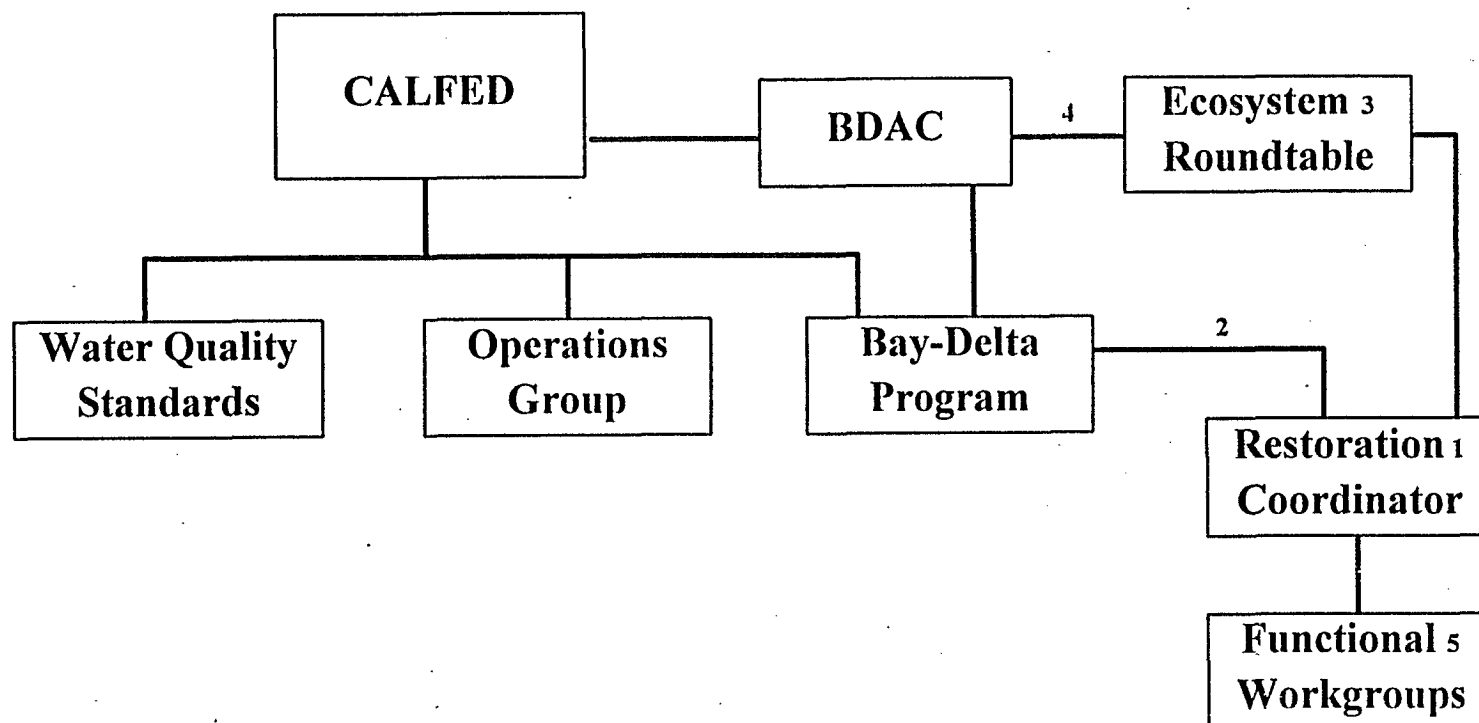
Remaining Questions:

- A. The details of the crediting policy are vital to this effort and are still being developed by CALFED.
- B. The entity that will take on the contracting and administrative functions of Category III has not been identified. It is anticipated that the current Category III arrangements for

contracting and tracking funding will be used for 1996 and that new arrangements will be developed by the Ecosystem Roundtable and CALFED and will be in place for 1997.

- C. The degree to which individual CALFED programs will be integrated within this structure is yet to be determined. This will be determined by CALFED based on the legal mandates and constraints for each program.
- D. This proposal does not address allocation of responsibility to provide funding for Category III.

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Coordination Proposal



Notes:

1. Position is responsible for coordinating state/federal and other (Category III) restoration activities to optimize ecosystem health improvements.
2. This position and activity will initially be a unit within the Bay-Delta Program and will likely transition to a separate, long-term CALFED function.
3. Roundtable provides a formal policy/technical role for stakeholders in restoration priority setting and decision making.
4. Roundtable will most likely be established as a subgroup of BDAC but could transition to a separate FACA charter or other structure.
5. Functional Groups will include agency and stakeholder technical experts and will initially rely on existing groups such as Restoration Roundtable, Four Pumps, Salmon Stamp, IEP, etc.